



May 22, 2018

The Honorable Scott Pruitt  
Administrator  
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency  
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.  
Mail Code 1101A  
Washington, DC 20460  
pruitt.scott@epa.gov

Re: **E15 RVP Waiver**

Dear Administrator Pruitt:

On May 17, 2018, Secretary of Agriculture Perdue once again confirmed President Trump's "direct instruction" to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to grant a waiver of the Reid Vapor Pressure (RVP) restrictions currently placed on E15 gasoline ("E15") use in the summer months.<sup>1</sup> We appreciate this Administration's expressed intent to move toward year-round E15, as year-round use of E15 would have significant benefits for farmers, the economy, energy independence, and the environment. **We urge you to act in an expedited manner to follow President Trump's direction to allow the use of E-15 this summer.**

Since October of last year, you have indicated that EPA is actively working to allow year-round use of E15.<sup>2</sup> At a January 30, 2018, hearing before the U.S. Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works, you stated that you were hopeful that EPA "will have a conclusion on that soon," agreeing to provide a timeline in response to Senator Ernst's request.<sup>3</sup> It is now May, and the summer restrictions on E15 for this year are looming with no apparent movement from EPA on this issue. Year-round use of E15 is not a new issue for EPA; this has long been supported by the biofuels industry and agriculture. **At a minimum, we request that EPA provide a clear timeline for action on the RVP waiver for E15.**

National Farmers Union (NFU) represents family farmers and ranchers across the country, with formally organized divisions in 33 states. Since 1902, NFU has worked to protect and enhance

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<sup>1</sup> USDA, May 17, 2018, available at <https://www.facebook.com/USDA/videos/10156431780277299/>.

<sup>2</sup> Letter from Scott Pruitt, EPA, to Senators Ernst, Grassley, Roberts, Thune, Fischer, Rounds and Sasse, Oct. 19, 2017, available at [https://www.ernst.senate.gov/public/\\_cache/files/3284947b-6650-4ce0-9e9f-49f901e94a17/7BC6BCD9A9097CE1502D48FEAB517797.101917-epa-to-participants-in-hill-meeting.pdf](https://www.ernst.senate.gov/public/_cache/files/3284947b-6650-4ce0-9e9f-49f901e94a17/7BC6BCD9A9097CE1502D48FEAB517797.101917-epa-to-participants-in-hill-meeting.pdf).

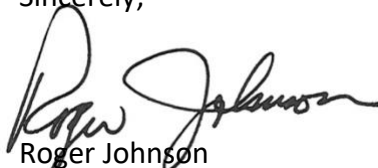
<sup>3</sup> Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works, *Oversight Hearing to Receive Testimony from Environmental Protection Agency Administrator Scott Pruitt*, Jan. 30, 2018, available at <https://www.epw.senate.gov/public/index.cfm/hearings?ID=8E3E883C-477F-4A6A-9F1E-1DDAADBDAF32>.

the economic well-being and quality of life for family farmers, ranchers, and rural communities through advocating grassroots-driven policy positions adopted by its membership. It is the policy of NFU to support growth of ethanol use, which provides significant benefits to farmers who are currently experiencing severe economic difficulties. Recent actions by EPA, such as the granting of numerous small refinery exemptions with little public transparency, have exacerbated these difficulties by undermining the Renewable Fuel Standard (RFS) and demand for higher blends of ethanol.

Farmers have worked hard to build value-added markets; the RFS and E15 provide significant economic opportunities for farmers facing increasing uncertainty and loss of demand. EPA must provide appropriate signals to the market, and this Administration must follow through on its promises.

In summary, NFU asks that EPA take immediate action to allow year-round use of E15 in time for this summer season. This Administration committed to taking such action well before any meetings at the White House on the RFS program, and further delays only compound the economic harm to farmers and rural communities. At a minimum, EPA should publicly provide a clear timeline for such action in order to ease the uncertainty and confusion being felt in the marketplace. We look forward to working with you to address this important issue.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Roger Johnson". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "R" and "J".

Roger Johnson  
President